

### Remarks

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action dated March 18, 2004. Claim 38 has been amended to address an informality. New claim 40 has been added. Claims 9-22 were previously canceled. Claims 1-8 and 23-40 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-5, 7-8 and 22-39 are allowable.

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,447,291 to Schulte et al. (hereinafter "Schulte"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's citation to Schulte does not appear to describe or suggest a method including "forming a hole by an anodic forming method" as recited in claim 6. The Examiner cited Schulte at Fig. 1 and col. 3, lines 25-30. Schulte at col. 3, lines 27-28, recites that the "polished side is anodically oxidized to about 700 angstroms of oxide . . .". Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner did not appear to cite any portion of Schulte that describes "forming a hole by an anodic forming method" as recited in claim 6. Instead, it appears that Schulte forms a via 16 using ion milling and spray etching, as described in Schulte at col. 4, lines 44-56. Accordingly, for at least the above reason, applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 6 be withdrawn.

Claim 38 was amended to delete an extra occurrence of the term "the" in the first line of the claim. The scope of the claim has not been narrowed by this amendment.

New dependent claim 40 has been added. Claim 40 depends from claim 6. Support for claim 6 may be found in the specification at, for example, pages 12-13. It is believed that no new matter has been added. Examination of claim 40 is respectfully requested.

In the statement of reasons for allowance the Examiner provided various reasons for allowance. Applicant notes that the claims are directed to various combinations of features. It is respectfully submitted that the patentability of each of the allowed and allowable claims resides in the combination of features recited in that claim in addition to any features noted by the Examiner.

Any comments by the Examiner in the Office Action that are not discussed above are deemed moot at this time in view of this response.

For at least the reasons stated above, applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in patentable form. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. If, for any reason, the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to discuss the steps necessary to place the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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Alan S. Raynes

June 18, 2004  
(Date)